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PHILS' NEW THIRD WHEEL {page 20}

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Once rising star now out of the spotlight

After six years as a state lawmaker, the ascent of young Democrat Tony Payton came to an abrupt end last month The Northeast Philadelphia resident is unsure about another run at elected office {page 04}

style

The perfect LBD for your office party

Or perhaps a fiery red number to wow the intern you've been eyeing {page 17}

home

Martha Stewart will e-vite you to her party

The woman who sets the trends on entertaining gives surprising advice {pages 26-27}

Make resolutions you'll keep {page 18}

'Best of.' Retail and fashion

On Day 3 of our Best of 2012 series, we highlight the city's top spots to pick up everything from tchotchkes to terrariums. {pages 10-11}

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Skepticism on Pa. reforms

While Congress weighs need for federal gun reform in wake of Newtown tragedy, some state lawmakers will redouble their efforts here Gov. Corbett not likely to budge from his stance, leading some to question resolve in Harrisburg

Lawmakers announced plans to introduce mental health and gun control reforms in the wake of the massacre in Newtown, Conn., but Philadelphia's top cop is skeptical.

"Let's see whether or not our legislators are still talking about this and moving on it in March and April," Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey said yesterday. "Right now, the tragedy just occurred. Everybody's saying the right things, but will they be saying those things three or four months from now? That's the key."

Ramsey was among those who testified this summer in favor of state House Bill 2331. The legislation introduced by state Rep. Todd Stephens (R–Montgomery) would have instituted a mandatory minimum sentence of five years for those caught illegally carrying firearms and classified a second illegal gun charge as a violent crime.

A state Senate committee in September removed those provisions. "In light of what happened in Newtown, as well as other tragedies we've had, I would hope that they would rethink that," Ramsey said.

The Senate did not vote on the measure, but Stephens said he will reintroduce it. "It came out of the House 190-7, so there was overwhelming support for it in the last session," he said.

Stephens also said he'll introduce a bill requiring Pennsylvania to report mental health records to the national database against which gun buyers are checked, but Gov. Corbett's office is not budging on the issue.

"Pennsylvania's gun laws are among the best in the nation," said Corbett's spokeswoman Janet Kelley. "Sadly, no law can prevent the actions of a deeply disturbed individual intent on committing such violence."

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH

Call for action

Nutter and other officials who signed the U.S. Conference of Mayors letter specifically called for President Barack Obama and Congress to:

- Renew a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, which expired in 2004. Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D–Calif) said she will reintroduce it this year.
- Eliminate loopholes in the national background check system
- Toughen penalties for straw gun purchasers
- Establish a bipartisan commission to investigate more broadly the frequent violence endemic to this country's society

▶ Advocates of gun reform are hoping for support in Harrisburg.

'Past time' for change

State Sen. Daylin Leach (D–Montgomery/Delaware) also announced planned legislation – one bill aimed at dissuading straw purchasers by limiting gun sales to one per person each month, and one bill requiring gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms within 48 hours.

"I know there are some individuals and groups that oppose any legislation with the word 'gun' in it," he said in a statement. "But it is well past time for this sort of extremism."

In the news

Group to tackle food access

Mayor Michael Nutter yesterday created the Philadelphia Food Access Collaborative to improve access to free indoor meals. The group will coordinate meal schedules to eliminate service gaps, find new space where outdoor servers can provide meals inside and increase social service resources. A judge in July temporarily blocked Nutter's ban on outdoor meal serving. METRO

In the news

Victory

Miss Universe co-owner Donald Trump has emerged victorious in a lawsuit he filed against former Miss Pennsylvania USA Sheena Monnin, who this summer claimed the pageant was rigged after she failed to make the semifinals. A judge found that Monnin's claims were untrue, reckless and defamatory and ordered her to pay $5 million in damages to the Miss Universe Organization. METRO.

Facebook threats lead to intimidation charge

KENSINGTON. A 20-year-old man is charged with witness intimidation for posting Facebook threats, authorities said.

Freddie Henriquez is accused of posting a photo of a witness statement on his Facebook page with the caption "RATS," and later posting a message to "KILL ALL RATS" after four of his associates were busted for straw purchasing.

Henriquez is charged with witness retaliation, witness intimidation and terroristic threats. Bail was set at $250,000.

METRO

4

Alleged associates of Henriquez who were charged with straw purchasing several firearms in February. Two of the four have pleaded guilty.

▶ Henriquez

News in brief

West Philly teen charged as adult in SEPTA El shooting

W. PHILADELPHIA. Bail was set at $5 million for a 17-year-old accused in a SEPTA shooting last week following a 76ers game.

Prosecutors said they will try Eric Early, of West Philadelphia, as an adult for the Dec. 12 incident on SEPTA's Market Frankford Elevated line.

Authorities said Early and his brother, Matthew Early, 18, shot two men as they got off the train following a dispute.

Matthew Early is still at-large. METRO

$5M

Bail set for Eric Early, who is charged with attempted murder, aggravated assault, conspiracy and related charges

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In the news

Casino hearings scheduled

The six groups vying for Philadelphia's second casino license will have a chance to present their plans to the public on Feb. 12 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, the state Gaming Control Board announced yesterday.

The all-day hearing will be information-only and will not include public comment, but will allow the six applicants to present details of their plans before public testimony opens.

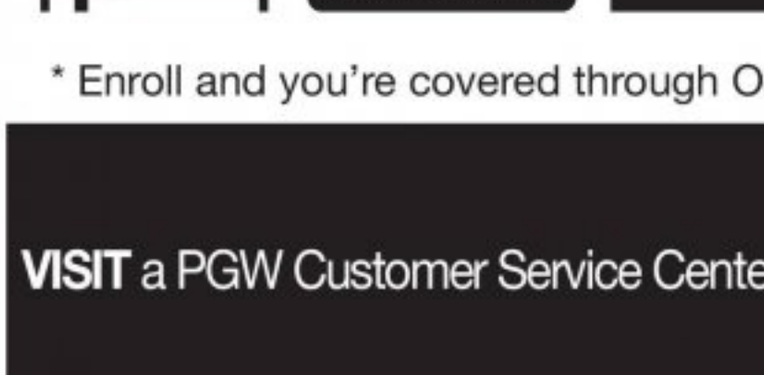
Two sessions have been scheduled for public testimony, April 11 and April 12, at the Convention Center, and more sessions will be added if necessary, the board said. Those who would like to testify at the public input hearings can register through the board's website starting March 4. Those who are unable to attend the public input hearings but would like their comments included in the record, will be able to submit their written testimony in March. METRO

Wedding brawlers to stand trial

PHILADELPHIA. Two men were ordered to stand trial yesterday for allegedly assaulting police officers as they attempted to break up a post-wedding brawl at the Society Hill Sheraton in October.

Matthew Sofka, 26, and Brian Lanza, 29, both of Westfield, N.J., are charged with assault, resisting arrest, disorderly conduct, reckless endangerment and failure to disperse for their alleged participation in the early-morning fight that broke out between members of two wedding parties.

They will next appear in court Jan. 8 for a formal arraignment. METRO



▶ Rendering of Steve Wynn's proposal

PROVIDED

Payton's place: Uncertain future for former lawmaker

▶ Former state Rep. Tony Payton is moving on after ending his reelection bid following petition snafu ▶ One-time rising Democrat called being a father his 'most important job ever'

After three terms in the state House, Democrat Tony Payton was poised for a fourth when the unthinkable happened: a ballot challenge before the May primary invalidated most of his petition signatures, causing the rising star to end his reelection bid.

Last month, Payton's term ended. The 31-year-old, once pegged as a reformer and part of the next generation of leaders, said he has not decided whether he will run for elected office again.

"My focus is being the best father I can be. That's my only focus, and, quite frankly, politically I'm not sure what's next, if there is a next," said Payton, whose son just turned 1 last week. "The honest answer is I don't know. I enjoyed serving; I did it for six years and now it's time to do something different, so long-term political viability is not a big concern of mine because I have a young son to look after and that's my most important job ever."

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Payton has joined a lobbying firm.

Payton has joined Malady & Wooten LLP, a lobbying firm based in Harrisburg, but has not ruled out a return to politics.

Payton, who served as president of the Pennsylvania Young Democrats, was first elected in 2006 to replace retiring state Rep. Bill Rieger in the 179th Legislative District, which includes Frankford, Oxford Circle, Hunting Park, Olney and Feltonville.

As a lawmaker, Payton introduced legislation to create the Pennsylvania Youth Commission and co-sponsored the REACH scholarship initiative, which would have given a free education to any Pennsylvania student with a 3.0 GPA and good attendance. "Tony is a very smart guy and someone who cares passionately about public policy," said state Rep. Brendan Boyle, of Philadelphia.

Change from outside

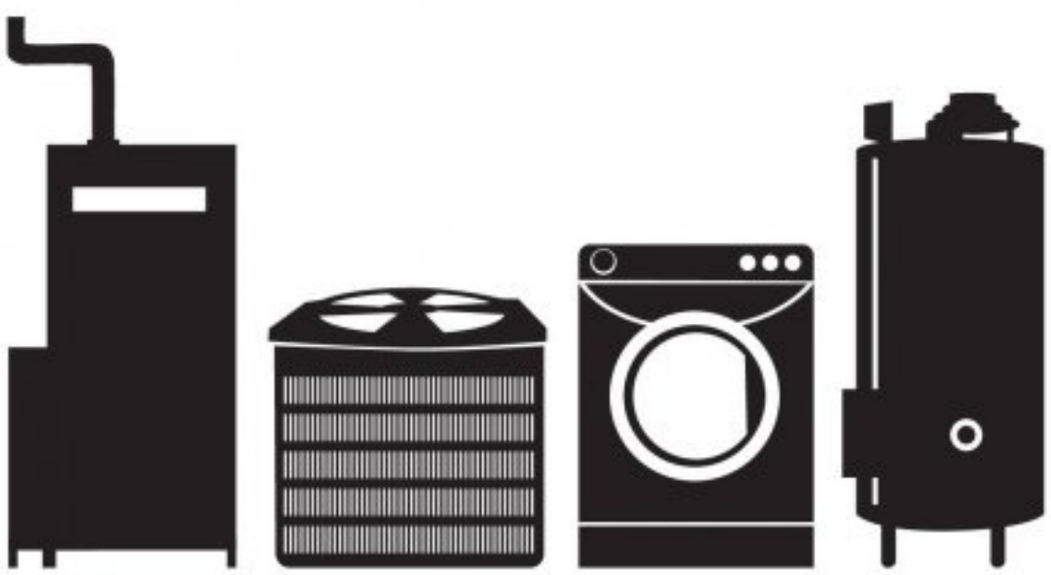
While running for office may or may not be in his future, Payton vowed not to disappear, especially on certain issues.

"I'll still be helping people," he said. "People still reach out to me for a number of things, so helping people is not something that ended on Nov. 30."

Given the size of the Legislature, Payton may just be as effective as a citizen as he was as a legislator, according to political consultant Larry Ceisler.

"I just think he's going to make contributions in another way," Ceisler said. "Today, being a member of the state House, unless you get a lot of seniority or have an influential committee assignment, truthfully it doesn't mean much. Truthfully, one can do much more outside elected office like that."

SOLOMON D. LEACH
sleach@metro.us



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In the news

Pharma suit over drug patent

Merz Pharmaceuticals LLC, a maker of neurological drugs, sued Par Pharmaceutical Inc. for patent infringement, claiming the generic-drug company is copying a medicine that treats severe drooling in cerebral palsy patients.

Par violated the patent for the drug Cuvposa by applying for the right to make a generic version before Merz's patent expired, Merz said in court papers filed yesterday in U.S. District Court in Wilmington, Del.

"Merz will be substantially and irreparably damaged and harmed," if Par goes forward with its plan, Merz said in its complaint.

Before a generic-drug maker can begin a producing patented medicine, it must get permission from federal regulators. Par claimed that its plan either didn't violate a current patent, or that the patent is invalid, according to Merz's complaint. **BLOOMBERG**

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Debate over Sandy relief could push funds into '13

▶ Sandy battered many coastal communities.

The U.S. Senate on Monday began debating a $60.4 billion aid bill to rebuild communities devastated by Superstorm Sandy amid criticism by conservative groups who said the measure was loaded with wasteful, non-disaster spending.

The Democratic-controlled Senate is looking to pass the disaster aid bill this week. But Republicans, wary of its huge price tag in the midst of tense debt and deficit negotiations in Washington, are likely to try to ratchet back some of its provisions through amendments.

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives is taking a slower, more painstaking approach to analyzing the Obama administration's request for funding to rebuild coastal communities largely in New York and New Jersey, repair transportation infrastructure there and provide other aid.

The House Appropriations Committee Chairman Hal Rogers, a Kentucky Republican, hopes to move an aid measure before the year's end but has been considering a smaller initial bill aimed at meeting immediate disaster needs.

The conservative Club for Growth urged senators to vote against the Sandy relief bill, saying that it contained a lot of "immaterial" spending. **REUTERS**

Quoted

"When a natural disaster occurs, there is a textbook response by Congress — they cobble together an overpriced bill that isn't paid for."
CLUB FOR GROWTH E-MAIL

Local talk

Even some local New Jersey politicians criticized the bill.

▶ "A full 5 percent of the appropriation request is earmarked for the replacement of federal assets, rather than rebuilding and aid efforts in the tri-state area," **– NEW JERSEY STATE SEN. JOE PENNACCHIO SAID IN A STATEMENT, REFERRING TO NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK AND CONNECTICUT.**

▶ The three states had initially requested $82 billion in aid, although damage estimates were expected to rise over time. Some of the rebuilding costs were expected to be covered by private insurance.

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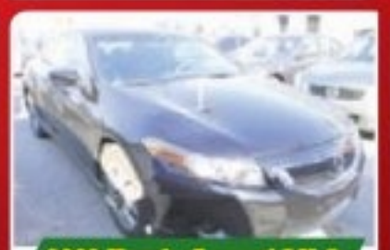

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THE BEST OF 2012: RETAIL AND FASHION

▶ Curves ahead: Bettie Page Clothing takes its cues from pin-up bombshells.

'Best of' series

All week long, Metro will be highlighting our selections of the city's best — from bars to salons to dance parties — of 2012. Check back tomorrow for our picks in health and beauty.

Best sneaker store disguised as a Chinese restaurant:

Abakus Takeout
This blink-and-you'll-miss-it streetwear emporium cleverly blends into the heart of Chinatown by putting a creative spin on classic takeout tropes — see the sneakers strung up in the window, a la roast duck breasts. Ground zero for one-off collectors' kicks and limited-release collaborations from brands like Crooks and Castles, 10Deep and Married to the Mob, the store released its first collection of its house brand of clothing this fall. Owners have also tapped into the area's growing creative scene, with First Friday open houses featuring art auctions and Tiberino Family paintings for sale. **227 N. 10th St. 215-351-7978 www.abakustakeout.com**

Best terrarium porn:

City Planter
Whether you're a hardcore gardener or just dabble in window boxes, this NoLibs nursery has all of your green needs covered — including a badass selection of Venus fly traps. Don't like to get your hands dirty? Check out its gorgeous pre-assembled terrariums, which require little more than a quick mist and a nurturing wink. **814 N. Fourth St. 215-627-6169 www.cityplanter.com**

Best place to warm up for Eagles games:

I. Goldberg Army & Navy
We're not sure if Andy Reid is, but the hand-warmers here are environmentally friendly. Stock up for next year. **1300 Chestnut St. 215-925-9393 www.igoco.com**

Best place to buy a gift for your not-quite-right-in-the-head great aunt:

The Mutter Museum Store
Conjoined gingerbread twin cookie cutters? Cuddly stuffed toys in the shape of giant chlamydia, gangrene and syphilis microbes? The gift shop attached to the museum of medical curiosities is the go-to present place for the person who has everything — or nothing, depending on how you look at it. **19 S. 22nd St. 215-563-3737 www.muttermuseumstore.com**

▶ Still have gifts to buy? Get thee to Open House.

Best place to stock up on legal health supplements:

GNC on Columbus Blvd.
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RIKARD LARMA/METRO

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▶ Go green at City Planter.

▶ Chic Petique's new rescue, Street Tails, was a welcome addition in 2012.

PAIGE OZAROWSKI/METRO

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Get your boots on at Bus Stop.

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107 S. 13th St., 215-922-1415, www.openhouse living.com

Retrospect
We're pretty sure this is where John Travolta found that UC Santa Cruz Banana Slugs T-shirt.
508 South St.
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www.retrospect vintage.com

Best thing to buy at a Phillies game:

Phillie Phanatic Dangle Hat
It's a Phillie Phanatic that you can wear on your face. Need we say more?

MVP of the Piazza at Schmidts:

Jinxed
We knew and loved Jinxed in its original location just off South Street — but we've got to admit that its new incarnation at the Piazza is even more fun. They still have the designer toys and artsy tees, but this time they're also packing a treasure chest of vintage oddities and ends. Wingback chairs, pope sculptures, outdated globes, teeth collections: It's all here, and then some.
1050 N. Hancock St.
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www.jinxed philadelphia.com

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Best place to send your scrubby boyfriend:

Sugarcube
There is, of course, plenty for ladies to love at this Old City mainstay. But send your jeans-and-tee boy here to really see the magic work. They do the staples, only softer and sharper, so he'll barely realize that he's been made over.
124 N. Third St.
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Best news for hips:

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The feed ...

Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

@SteveMartinToGo
Still not feeling funny, nor is funny feeling appropriate.

@Sethrogen
After watching Homeland and Zero Dark Thirty, I'm really thinking the CIA should release a line of sexy lady's pantsuits.

@AlbertBrooks
Gerard Depardieu gives up French citizenship and moves to Belgium. Taxes or waffles?

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** on today's gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Hidden no more: These stars 'came out' in 2012

A celebrity coming out of the closet is almost (almost) becoming a non-event; we're far from the days of **Ellen DeGeneres** and **Lance Bass** appearing on magazine covers. But it still makes news. Here are some of the biggest announcements of 2012:

Who: Anderson Cooper, journalist
How: In an e-mail to blogger Andrew Sullivan
What was said: "The fact is, I'm gay," Cooper wrote. "Always have been, always will be." Cooper, who was the subject of rumors for years, addressed his silence. "I have given some the mistaken impression that I am trying to hide something — something that makes me uncomfortable, ashamed or even afraid. This is distressing because it is simply not true."

Who: Wade Davis, a cornerback who spent four preseasons with three NFL teams
How: In an interview with Outsports.com
What was said: "You just want to be one of the guys, and you don't want to lose that sense of family," Davis said about not coming out sooner. "Your biggest fear is that you'll lose that camaraderie and family."

Who: Orlando Cruz, professional boxer
How: In a public announcement
What was said: "I have always been and always will be a proud gay man."

Who: Matt Bomer, television star
How: Thanking his longtime partner, Simon Halls, and their kids upon accepting an award
What was said: "I'd really especially like to thank my beautiful family: Simon, Kit, Walker, Henry. Thank you for teaching me what unconditional love is."

Who: Lee "Uncle Poodle" Thompson, redneck
How: Appearing on "Here Comes Honey Boo Boo"
What was said: Thompson's homosexuality isn't a huge to-do on the show; he's out and proud. As Alana "Honey Boo Boo" Thompson says in the season finale, "ain't nothin' wrong with bein' a little gay."

Romeo Beckham models for Burberry

Maybe he's just not that good with a soccer ball?

It was announced this week that at only 10 years old, **David** and **Victoria Beckham**'s son, **Romeo Beckham**, is the "baby face" of Burberry's spring/summer '13 campaign.

"We had such fun shooting the campaign," Burberry's creative director **Christopher Bailey** says.

Perhaps Burberry really wanted his dad, David Beckham, but then decided they to go with someone who has more of a mature, male voice?

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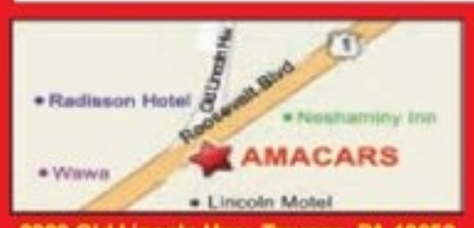

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From Russia, with complicated love

Brendan Mulvihill's lonely, chilly year abroad inspired Norwegian Arms' debut album

▶ Norwegian Arms play Johnny Brenda's on Friday at 9:15 p.m. For tickets, visit www.johnnybrendas.com.

Philly musician Brendan Mulvihill packed his bags and moved to Russia after receiving a Fulbright Award in 2009. Then a graduate student at Temple University, his mission was to teach at Tomsk Polytechnic University and help the faculty revamp their English curriculum. "It was such a bizarre experience," he says. "On the surface, everything looked familiar — but it definitely was not."

"Wolf Like A Stray Dog," the debut album by his band Norwegian Arms (with Eric Slick, of Dr. Dog), was written by Mulvihill during his year abroad. With very little knowledge of Russian, he was thrown into a confounding world with weather so cold he became accustomed to icicles hanging from his beard. He found comfort in vodka ("I drank dozens of bottles," he confesses), playing the mandolin, and filling his notebook with songs.

Mulvihill made some human friends, but felt closest to the stray dogs that roamed around the city. "They were everywhere," he says of the dogs, which inspired the album's title. "They adapted to life in human spaces very well in order to survive; they were generally friendly, and didn't attack. I felt the same way, as if I had to act a certain way to please people, and to blend in even though I clearly didn't belong."

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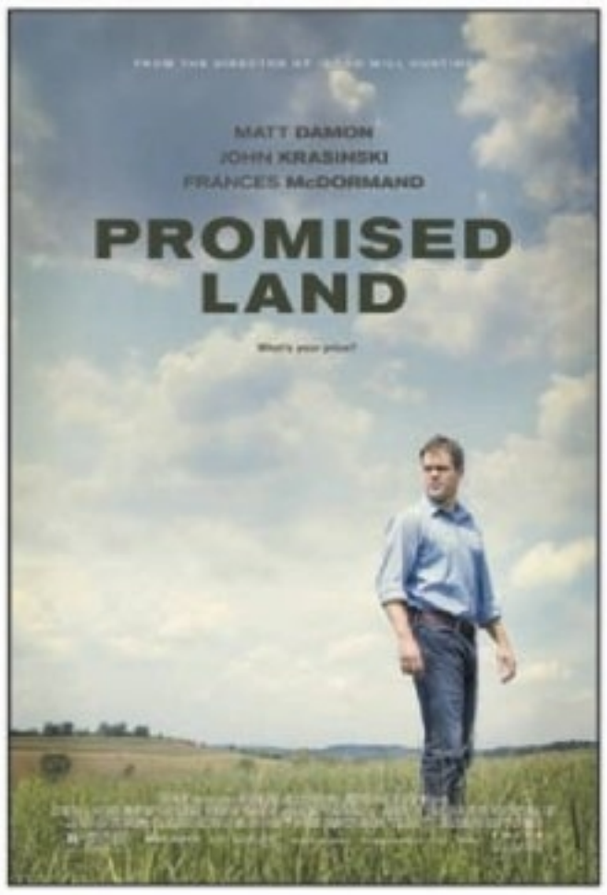

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Attention holiday shoppers, time is running out for you to snag that perfect gift for the gamer in your life. However, even if you are lazy and don't want to leave the couch, you can still get them something special. You see, video games can now be purchased using the mystical power of the Internet. Here are reviews of some games you can buy digitally.

'Skyrim: Dragonborn'
Xbox 360 (PS3 and PC coming next year)
Bethesda Softworks
$20, ●●●●○

▶ "Skyrim: Dragonborn" is an add-on to the original "Skyrim" game.

When "Skyrim" dropped last year, gamers were enthralled by the title's sheer amount of stuff to do. There was an entire continent to explore, complete with more quests and secrets than you could shake a stick at. It took many months, but the fan base finally squeezed every inch of playtime out of the game, leaving them longing for more. Their wish has been granted.

"Dragonborn" is an add-on for the game, and thus needs the original title to work. What you'll get for your $20 is a new land, a new story and many new villains to bash in. The only downside are the dragons themselves. This DLC promised the ability to command one as a steed. While that is technically true, it's not nearly as exciting as it sounds.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

'Little Inferno'
Wii U
Tomorrow Corporation
$15, ●●●●●

"Little Inferno" is a fireplace simulator set inside of a world that can only be described as Ren and Stimpy meets the apocalypse. "Little Inferno" turns your Wii U gamepad into a fireplace and tasks you to burn everything you can get your hands on. The trick is figuring out the right combination of items to incinerate, which allows you to open up the game's story. The art style and dark humor make this a one-of-a-kind experience.

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Here's how to keep your New Year's resolutions

When March rolls around, will you even remember your 2013 goals? Psychologist Jeremy Dean on how to stay on track

Another new year, another New Year's resolution. Whether you vow to stop smoking, lose weight, exercise more or take on another challenge, making the decision is the first step and committing to it is the second. Then comes the difficult part: sticking with it.

Taking an internal inventory of your habits and why you have them is a good place to start, says psychologist Jeremy Dean, author of "Making Habits, Breaking Habits."

"A lot of habits are performed subconsciously," he says. "People light a cigarette or eat automatically. That's part of the reason it's hard to break a bad habit. Another problem is self-control issues on top of that."

Once you've done some soul-searching and are ready to change, Dean says it's less about deprivation and more about substitution. You need to also avoid situations that trigger the habit. For example, if you're trying to cut back on caffeine, turn your 3 p.m. coffee break into a walk around the office.

"It's a mistake to suppress the habit," he says. "Replace it with good ones instead. Make a plan for a new habit and link it to a situation where you perform the bad habit. Look for a point in the day when you will perform the new habit. Each time you repeat a behavior, the habit gets stronger. Over time, it will become automatic."

Dean also says that visualizing the positive and negative effects of your habit can be motivating.

Go your own way

There are many common bad habits — smoking, overspending and nail-biting, to name a few — but success with quitting isn't universal:

- "It's important to do what's right for you," says Dean. "We're told that exercising in the morning is best. Well, I'm not getting up early to exercise, so I exercise in the afternoon — it suits my schedule. Also, tweak your approach. If it doesn't work the first time, then move it around a little until it feels right. Breaking habits can take experimentation until it works for you."

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Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** It could be the fateful time when some of your past efforts will be coming home to roost. You'll quickly discover all that hard work you've done will not have been in vain.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Although you might have to once again deal with a matter that has given you much trouble, this time experience and wisdom are on your side. You'll come out ahead.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Resurrecting an old enterprise that you were once quite enthusiastic about might be a good idea. You'll be glad you didn't scrap it, because you now possess the missing pieces.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** You're likely to do much better working with some trusted and competent intermediaries than handling a ticklish problem all on your own. It's smart to use all of your resources.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** This might be the best day of the week to spend some time on one of your more meaningful objectives, so try to do so. You might not have the luxury for long.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Someone you like and whom you've known for a while is much fonder of you than you have reason to believe. He or she might supply evidence of this.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Don't place a lot of significance on some early, discomforting developments, even if they appear to be pretty harsh. Luck will be on your side as the day progresses.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** A close associate will make a tough decision that will have reverberations in your life. After the dust settles, you'll realize its benefits.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** This could be a very profitable time if you're both practical and prudent in involvements of a financial or material nature. You'll be smart when both buying and selling.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** If you're prepared to take a calculated risk, an endeavor in which you're presently involved could be substantially advanced. Be sure to think things out fully if you expect success.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Trying to quietly go about doing good deeds without drawing any attention to it is a laudable goal. However, once word gets out, and it will, everyone will know of your kindness.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Something you've wanted to accomplish isn't a lock, but it's not as complex as you've led yourself to believe, either. You'll quickly find this out once you tackle it.

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Solution to yesterday's crossword

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B	O	D	E	S		G	A	D	S		H	A	I	R
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C	A	D	D	I	E		L	O	O	N	S			
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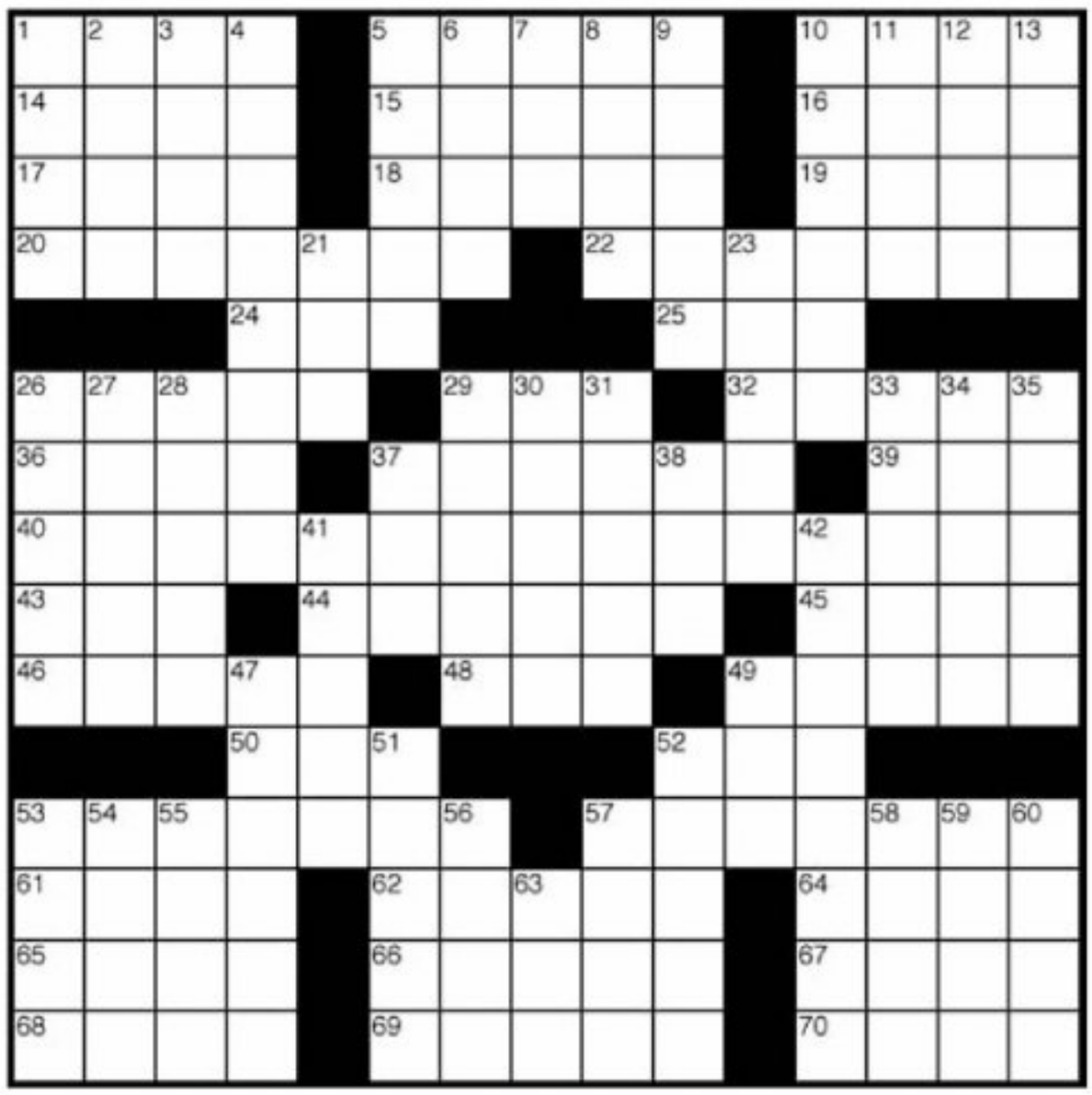
E	N	Y	A		R	F	D				P	R	O	D

Across

1 "Eso —" (Paul Anka tune)
5 Muffler
10 Perseverance
14 Tel —
15 Kind of eclipse
16 Avatar of Vishnu
17 Ceremony
18 Brooklyn Dodger great
19 John, in Wales
20 Smudged
22 Kind of zoo
24 Embroider
25 Any miss
26 Held one's own
29 Good buddy
32 A moon of Jupiter
36 Wings, in botany
37 Gray
39 Old PC system
40 Really picky (hyph.)
43 Found a perch
44 Victoria's consort
45 Hat or umbrella —
46 Bandmate of Mick
48 Weathervane dir.
49 Bloodhound's clue
50 Mouse alert
52 Bewildered response
53 Pina — (rum drinks)
57 Computer screen
61 Psyche's suitor
62 Gimmicks
64 Wagner's earth goddess
65 Broad valley
66 Aim
67 Bird-feeder treat
68 Plumbing bends
69 NASA rocket
70 Prefix for "trillion"

Down

1 Cutting remark
2 Malicious
3 In — (as found)
4 Foreman
5 Fling
6 Woman on campus
7 Scarfed
8 Speak hoarsely
9 Bolts
10 Grimm maiden
11 Shankar the sitarist
12 Somali supermodel
13 Zingy taste



21 Checkers side
23 I thought — never leave!
26 Make watertight
27 Kukla's friend
28 Ms. LaBelle
29 Lets slip
30 Pink wines
31 Beyond the fringe
33 Delight in
34 Normandy city
35 Money in the bank
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38 Telegraph signal
41 Exclaimed over
42 Scratchiest
47 Fluffs, as hair
49 Grab some rays
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Letters to the editor

The founders knew only flintlocks

I am just a dumb Iraq combat veteran. I don't claim to have any understanding of the most recent tragedy in Connecticut or the many others that have occurred in my lifetime.

Perhaps evil just exists. Perhaps no amount of gun-control legislation or gun-control enforcement will prevent these horrific tragedies. I don't believe this. No sane human being can believe that the 40 signers of the U.S. Constitution, almost exclusively southern farmers and northern aristocrats, could have envisioned the caches of automatic and semi-automatic weaponry currently in the hands of our citizenry.

LARRY D. FOWLER, VIA E-MAIL

"No sane human being can believe the 40 signers ... could have envisioned the caches of automatic ... weaponry."

Bereaved should not be in papers

RE: "FUNERALS BEGIN FOR CONNECTICUT SLAIN CHILDREN" (METRO, DEC. 18) In today's journalistic landscape, there is a point where "newsworthy" becomes gratuitous, even voyeuristic. Metro crossed that line yesterday when it featured a photo of a mother of one of the children slain in Newtown arriving for his funeral. Many news groups defend these choices by claiming that's what the public wants. As one of the leading news providers in many major cities, Metro now has an opportunity to use its influence to forge a new path and dare to treat its news subjects with the respect they deserve.

JANINE M. DOHERTY, VIA E-MAIL

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Young and gettin' it

Phillies introduce new third baseman to masses ◗ Returns to hot corner after serving as designated hitter ◗ Compliments the organization, fans and ballpark

"Nice."

That is what a visibly pleased Michael Young said when Ruben Amaro Jr. slipped on his Phillies jersey during yesterday's press conference. We'll see if fans say the same when Young is fielding ground balls at third base next season.

Amaro believes the faithful should be full of seasonal cheer when it comes to Young, who has played his entire 12-year career with Texas.

"As far as Mike playing third base, it wasn't that long ago we had questions about Placido Polanco [playing third]," Amaro said. "I know Michael, at various parts of his career, has been a Gold Glove caliber defender."

That hasn't been so recently since Young has been a designated hitter and played all over the Rangers' infield. Young, 36, believes that focusing on one position will be beneficial for him.

"I think my time at third will be easier," Young said. "The difference is that I will devote all of my time to one spot. I'm looking forward to getting a lot of reps at one position."

If Young plays a solid third, he should help the team considerably since he provides what could be a potent right-handed bat.

Young had a subpar 2012 (.277, 67 RBIs). However, he is one season removed from leading the AL in hits with 213. He hit .338 and drove in 106 runs in 2011. If Young can match those numbers, fans should be pleased.

"I couldn't be more excited to be a member of this organization," Young said. "I've always had a ton of respect not only for the success they've had but for their fan base and their ownership group and just a nonstop commitment to acquire a ton of talent here."

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Young hasn't played much third in recent seasons, but the Phillies are relying on him there every day.

ED CONDRAN
sports@metro.us

What else?

When asked if he would add another outfield piece (Cody Ross?), Ruben Amaro coyly replied, "We're still trolling through the possibility of adding another piece there." "And we're also considering the possibility with a double platoon," he added.

Lannan in the fold, too

Why did John Lannan pitch so poorly against the Phillies and decently against the rest of the competition?

"It was me not executing pitches against some really good Phillies lineups," Lannan explained. "It doesn't matter where you're pitching if you don't execute your pitches."

Considering that Lannan has struggled so much in South Philly, it's a bit surprising that he chose Philly hands down over other organizations interested in him.

"I thought this was the best fit," he said. "I jumped at the chance. I've seen firsthand what the Phillies are capable of doing." METRO/EC

Uh-oh

Sanchez finally out in New York

It might be a month too late, but Mark Sanchez is no longer the Jets' starting QB.

Rex Ryan said that third-stringer Greg McElroy (not Tim Tebow) will be his starter Sunday against San Diego. The news comes one day after Sanchez committed five turnovers (four picks, one fumble) and the Jets were eliminated from playoff contention.

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Metro's NFL power rankings | by Mike Greger

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1 — 49ERS (10-3-1)
There are statement wins, then there are franchise-changing wins. The latter is what Colin Kaepernick and Niners got last Sunday night. They could have easily crumbled on a rainy night in Foxboro. They didn't. And the entire NFL is on notice.

2 — PATRIOTS (10-4)
Was anyone surprised Tom Brady guided a 28-point comeback? The way he was yelling at his troops and pumping his fist, Brady is in playoff mode.

3 — TEXANS (12-2)
J.J. Watt only increased his MVP candidacy, finishing with three sacks, 10 tackles and a forced fumble in a must-win game.

4 — BRONCOS (11-3)
Peyton Manning can smell blood in the water and he hasn't lost since Oct. 7 — at New England, when the team was still adjusting to him.

5 — FALCONS (12-2)
With all apologies, Asante, we're not trying to hate after an impressive 34-0 win; it's just too crowded at the top.

6 — PACKERS (10-4)
They put up 391 yards against one of the stingier defenses in football. They're starting to look eerily similar to that 2010 Super Bowl squad.

7 — SEAHAWKS (9-5)
Pete Carroll thinks he's back at USC, running up the score for BCS votes. Seahawks outscored opposition 108-17 past two weeks.

8 — RAVENS (9-5)
The hits keep coming, with Torrey Smith (concussion) possibly out. That's terrible news for a team that can't find its early-season mojo.

9 — COLTS (9-5)
Indy looked the part of a young, inexperienced team. They'll make the playoffs. Trust us.

10 — 'SKINS (8-6)
Wait, so Washington went two decades without a legit QB and now they might have two? The football gods work in mysterious ways.

11 — GIANTS (8-6)
The ultimate Jekyll and Hyde. They do the pummeling and then get pummeled. Still, don't count them out to run table and make a run.

12 — VIKINGS (8-6)
Here comes Adrian, here comes Adrian, right down Adrian's lane. Vikes proving quarterbacks don't matter ...

13 — COWBOYS (8-6)
Forget Tony Romo. Forget DeMarcus Ware. DeMarco Murray makes Dallas dangerous.

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Redskins at Eagles, 1 p.m. (FOX)

Sports in brief

Eagles place Harbor on IR

The Eagles placed Clay Harbor on injured reserve yesterday. The backup tight end suffered a back injury last week and now his season is over.

Harbor caught 25 balls for 144 yards and two touchdowns this season. He is considered more of a receiving tight end than a blocking one. The team announced no move to replace his roster spot.

Brent Celek, the team's starting tight end, will return to the lineup after sitting out with a concussion against Cincinnati. The Eagles return to practice today. METRO

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Harbor is done for the season.

Union set to open at PPL Park

The Union will open their fourth MLS season on March 2 against Sporting Kansas City at PPL Park. The club will travel to Dick's Sporting Goods Park to take on the Colorado Rapids on March 9.

Holiday Four Packs are on sale right now at Philadelphiaunion.com. Each one contains four home-opener tickets in one of four sideline sections (102, 112, 122, 132). METRO

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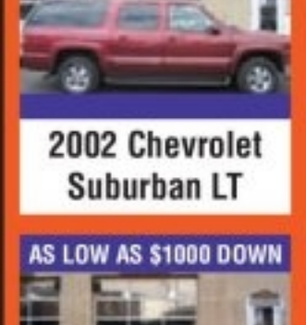
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As the Big East turns and turns

Temple enters conference as others bolt Owls to play in Western Division 'Nova, Georgetown prepare to split

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Dunphy looks to be entering a depleted Big East unless other schools transition over.

In the game of musical conferences, why does it seem someone keeps pulling the chair out from under Temple every time the Owls try to sit down?

Having finally convinced the Big East to take them in for football and basketball, suddenly the respective landscapes seem unrecognizable. With Louisville and Rutgers subsequently announcing plans to leave the conference, Temple football finds itself in a geographical fix. The school is now in the Western Division of the so-called Big East, along with Boise State, San Diego State, Houston, SMU and Memphis.

Basketball may be worse, as schools that made the Big East the power it was prepare to split. Seven Catholic schools, including 'Nova, Georgetown and St. John's, intend to go it alone. Syracuse, Pitt and Notre Dame are already out the door, with UConn and Cincinnati reportedly eager to escape. That doesn't seem to leave much competition for Temple when it arrives next season.

Yet Temple athletic director Bill Bradshaw isn't discouraged.

"Basketball is easier to answer because we never played in the league," said Bradshaw. "We would've liked to play Georgetown and St. John's, but we can schedule them. We've always been able to schedule up depending on what league we're in."

If you think that's optimistic, listen to how easy it will be to sell football.

"Clearly in football we've needed a structure," said Bradshaw. "Before Louisville and Rutgers went into what they did, the Big East was rated sixth-best in the country. And, after they left, we're still sixth. The champion of our league has a direct route to a BCS game. In recruiting, to be in that league, to have that automatic access, be in the markets we're in and have the television package we hope to have is still very good for us."

How it plays out on the football field and for Dunphy's hoopsters may be a different story.

But, at least for now, Temple isn't going anywhere. Even if everyone else seems to be taking all of the chairs with them.

JON MARKS
sports@metro.us

Big East hoops

With seven Catholic schools set to defect, here's what the conference might look like for basketball:

- **Out:** Villanova, Georgetown, DePaul, Providence, St. John's, Marquette, Seton Hall

Some are calling for the Big East to split into two, seven-team divisions — maybe East and West. Here are some schools that might transition over:

- **Potentially in:** Butler, Creighton, Saint Louis, Xavier, Gonzaga, Dayton, VCU

Quoted

"Instead of going to Athens, Ohio, DeKalb, Ill., and Ypsilanti, Mich., like we were in the MAC, we're going to San Diego, New Orleans. Dallas, Houston and Tampa-St. Pete." TEMPLE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR BILL BRADSHAW

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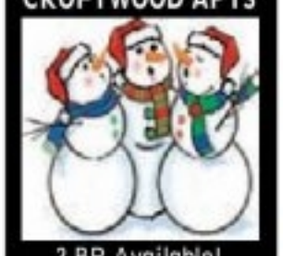

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North Carolina
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Entertain like the best

Martha Stewart doesn't do appetizers, won't serve red wine and, surprisingly, sends e-mail invitations She shares her tips for hosting the perfect party

Dream of hosting epic get-togethers that will spread like wildfire on Instagram and Pinterest, but have yet to organize something more involved than cheese and crackers? You, aspiring hostess, need a thought-out game plan, so we checked in with domestic powerhouse Martha Stewart (consider it an early Christmas present).

"I always have a Christmas open house," she explains. "This year I've decided to do brunch."

Here, she takes us through her personal party prep. Take notes, people!

Skip the apps

"I don't like serving appetizers because I always have really good food and I don't want people to get stuffed on appetizers. I rarely have them, and if I do it's really something simple — but special — like homemade puff pastry cheese straws right out of the oven."
STEWART

Start with the right company

"The first thing I do is create my guest list. I have a basic list of my friends and then people who I've added to it throughout the year. I send out a save-the-date. Then I send out an e-mail invitation — but it's embedded in my e-mail so it opens immediately. You don't have to go clicking here and clicking there. It's very important to me. I don't click on an envelope that opens up. Right click here and download pictures — I don't go for that stuff."

▶ Stewart is using fallen trees this year to make trays and coasters for her holiday party.

Plan your menu

"Next I start on the menu planning. What do I really want to cook? What do I really want to serve? After the menu planning comes the shopping list."

Dive into a theme

"Two weeks before the party make sure you have everything you need for decorating and [put it up]. We lost a lot of trees in Sandy, so I'm using a lot of fallen trees as decoration. All my big trays are slabs of wood cut from the trees that fell down. And I made beautiful coasters from 3-inch-diameter branches that are sliced very thinly. You have to think of a theme — is it woodland or what is it? I have a theme for all of my parties. I think it's fun."

TINA CHADHA
tina.chadha@metro.us

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▶ "You have to be creative, thoughtful and adventurous," says Stewart about being a good host.

"REPRINTED FROM THE BOOK MARTHA'S ENTERTAINING: A YEAR OF CELEBRATIONS BY MARTHA STEWART. COPYRIGHT © 2011 BY MARTHA STEWART. PHOTOGRAPH COPYRIGHT © 2011 BY FRÉDÉRIC LAGRANGE. PUBLISHED BY CLARKSON POTTER, A DIVISION OF RANDOM HOUSE, INC."

Dazzle at your dinner party

"Make sure you make time to be friendly to your guests and acknowledge everybody's presence. Try to matchmake a little with the people that you think should meet each other."

"I like to set the table for a plated and served dinner unless I'm having a very large crowd. When creating a seating chart for served dinners, I always break up couples and seat new people next to one another. I also always put myself in the least-comfortable spot. For a crowd larger than what my tables will hold seated, I will serve a buffet dinner."

"Having cocktails premade ensures you won't spend the whole party fixing drinks and you can instead devote your attention to your guests."

Signature drinks

"Make a really good drink from the best ingredients. I'll also serve white wine. I don't serve red wine in my house because I don't want people to spill it — unless it's a seated dinner. You have to be a little creative, thoughtful and adventurous."

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Gift guide

Gilded age

A touch of gold makes everything a whole lot fancier

TINA CHADHA
tina.chadha@metro.us

These chic vases don't really need flowers to live on your table. Diane von Furstenberg Tresor vase, $90, www.bloomingdales.com

Serve them potato chips — who cares, your table is blingy. Chilewich Pressed Gilt place mats, $10 each, www.chilewich.com

Caldrea's new Crimson Pear Ginger Candle Trio will make her cubicle look like a million bucks. $21, www.caldrea.com

The gold trim on these organically formed Brazilian agate coasters gets them party ready. Aerin coasters, $195, www.aerin.com

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